

Minutes of the State Board of Health
September 13, 2000

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Health (WSBOH) was held at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, Washington. The public meeting of the WSBOH was called to order by Linda Lake, Chair, at 9:05 am that addressed the attendees with the following statement:

“This is a public meeting of the WSBOH held under provision of RCW 43.20. Notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with provisions of RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedures Act. Those members having any conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board will report that conflict with respect to the particular subject under consideration. In case of challenge of any Board members by the public, the Board shall decide the status of the challenged members to participate before considering the substance of the matter.”

The following Board members were present:

Linda Lake, Chair	Charles R. Chu, DPM
The Honorable Neva J. Corkrum, Vice Chair	Joe Finkbonner
Ed Gray, MD	Thomas H. Locke, MD, MPH
Carl S. Osaki, RS, MPH	Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH
Mary Selecky, Secretary, Department of Health	

The following Board members were absent:

The Honorable Margaret Pageler, JD

State Board of Health Staff present:

Don Sloma, Executive Director	John Beare, Senior Health Policy Advisor
Beth Berendt, Senior Health Policy Advisor	Heather Boe, Executive Assistant
Janice Englehart, Senior Health Policy Advisor	Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor
Desiree Robinson, Office Assistant Senior	Donna Russell, Health Policy Advisor

Guests and Other Participants

Jean Baldwin, Jefferson County Health	Sharon Hopkins, Public Health Seattle King County
Chris Borchers, Clallam County Health and Human Services	Richard Jackman, Resist the List
Mark Charonis, Department of Health	Kristin Janusz, Department of Health
Grace Chawes, Citizen	Jack Jourden, Department of Health
Jerry Chawes, Citizen	Kris Locke, Citizen
Maria Courogen, Department of Health	Jeff Masci, Mayor of Port Townsend and Jefferson County Board of Health Member
Kathleen Crompton, MCPP Healthcare Consulting	Kim Nguyen, Northwest AIDS Foundation
Kaheya Cunningham, Jefferson County DASH Board	Kathy O'Connor, MCPP Healthcare Consulting
Julia Danskin, Jefferson County Health and Human Services	Maria Penfold, Citizen
Anna Easton, Department of Health	John Peppert, Department of Health
Dana Fickeisen, OlyCap Early Childhood Services	Sean P. Pickard, Washington Dental Service
Roberta Frissell, Jefferson County Board of Health Member	Lynn Saddler, Clallam County Health and Human Services
Dan Harpole, Jefferson County Board of Health Member	Ree Sailors, Office of Financial Management, Office of Health Policy
Frank Hayes, Region AIDSNET Coordinator, TPCHD	Jean Schubert, Kite Strings Child Development Center
Maxine Hayes, Department of Health/State Health Officer	Christopher Spitters, Department of Health
Patty Hayes, Department of Health	Pat Teal, Citizen
Jan Hollingsworth, Citizen	Eugene Turner, Citizen
	Norma Turner, Citizen
	Yuko Umeda, Jefferson County Health and Human Services

Robert W. Ward, Public Health Seattle King
County
Joan Williams, Citizen

Richard Wojt, Jefferson County Board of
Health
Quen Zorrah, Jefferson County Health

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- *Motion: To approve the September 13, 2000 agenda as submitted.*
Motion/Second: Corkrum/Osaki the motion passed.

ADOPTION OF JULY 12, 2000 MEETING MINUTES

- *Motion: To approve the June 14, 2000 minutes as corrected.*
Motion/Second: Finkbonner/Locke the motion passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) UPDATE AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Secretary Selecky presented the following information:

- Farm worker tent housing opened in Wenatchee for the apple harvest and was well received by occupants. Governor Locke visited some of the sites. There were some initial problems with the siting of water systems that were corrected. DOH is planning a debriefing with all involved agencies after the apple harvest is complete. Attempt to put together trailers for public housing proved too complex for this harvest but will be addressed during planning for next year.
- Low-level radiation storage sites are licensed by DOH. There are no federal standards dealing with what entities are permitted to send materials. US Ecology was able to sell space for storage of radioactive waste from Spain. DOH sent staff to inspect materials before they were sent to Washington. The materials were deemed acceptable and allowed to be licensed. The Honorable Neva Corkrum asked how licensing fees and taxes were distributed. US Ecology (the vendor) retains the fees – but tax money goes to the General Fund. DOH will be releasing an environmental impact statement for comment on materials allowed to come in to Hanford.
- Distribution of Flu vaccine will be delayed until December due to production delay. Providers already in the supply line probably have received the vaccine. There is concern about those orders not yet placed and whether individuals will delay getting their shots. Also concerned that seniors will put off their pneumococcus vaccine. Thomas H. Locke, MD, MPH and Ed Gray, MD reported that they are watching this situation for their jurisdictions– since delivery is decentralized they are worried about how to coordinate and set priorities for who gets the vaccine.
- Gov. Locke announced a prescription drug program for senior citizens called the Senior Awards Program. Enrollees will be eligible for the discount available to the public employees through the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP). DOH will adopt rules through their broad rule making authority and enter into an Interagency Agreement to use the Health Care Authority's (HCA) contract with Merk Medco to administer the program.
- DOH's Tobacco Cessation Program is rolling out its media campaign, "Quit Line", with the contract given to Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound.

Patty Hayes, Department of Health Director of Legislative, Policy and Constituent Relations, reported budget and legislative packages were sent to the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Board Members will receive a mailing that outlines the request. DOH recently completed a survey of state agency activities dealing with rural health access and the results of the Landscape project with its focus on rural care delivery and economic impact were about to be released.

SBOH STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Sloma, Washington State Board of Health Executive Director, announced information provided in tab one of the Board packets. Ms. Corkrum requested information on membership of the On-site Wastewater Advisory Committee to determine if local government was represented. Ms. Corkrum received the list from Janice Englehart, Washington Board of Health staff.

Carl Osaki, RS, MSPH reported “Health Track” requested a letter of support for funding of a Nationwide Health Tracking network. Mr. Osaki stated he felt this type of request needed to be considered by the entire board.

Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH requested consideration of moving the December Board meeting to December 6, 2000 in order to coordinate with the 2000 Washington Health Legislative Conference. Mr. Sloma stated that staff would determine if the date could be changed.

UPDATE ON LEGAL ISSUES

No report given.

BOARD PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUE: REPORT FROM CONSULTANTS ON ACCESS TO CRITICAL HEALTH SERVICES

Kathleen O’Connor, MD, MPH and Kathleen Crompt, BSN of MCPP HealthCare Consulting presented their report found behind tab seven of the Board packets.

Ms. Ybarra asked if there were any early indications on what will be on final list for measurement. Ms. Crompt said that it was too early in their measurement tool development process to speculate.

Dr. Gray noted that the list has undergone some consolidation that addressed some of his concerns about its complexity. He asked for an example service that was not included because it was not a benefit to community at large – Transplant Services were cited as an example.

Ms. Lake asked what the consultants needed from the Board. Approval of the menu of health services and approach to development of measurement methodology was requested.

- ***Motion: To approve the proposed final menu of potential services and criteria for scoring.***
Motion/Second: Gray/Locke the motion passed.
- ***Motion: To approve the proposed measurement approach***
Motion/Second: Locke/Gray the motion passed.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON EXECUTIVE ORDER: RULE REVIEW

Ms. Hayes presented the report contained under tab eight of the Board packets. She noted that the highlights of this year’s report included consolidation of the Notifiable Conditions rules and revision of the Commercial Shellfish Regulation.

Mr. Osaki asked if there is a requirement that a rule be reviewed periodically with an analysis of its effectiveness. Ms. Hayes responded that it is the intent of the Governor’s Executive Order to monitor the impact of rules over time and the results are presented annually. Mr. Sloma reported that there has not been a process for the SBOH to review regulations and it relies on DOH to perform the staff work and include the information in the DOH report.

- ***Motion: To approve the report as submitted.***
Motion/Second: Osaki/Ybarra the motion passed.

HIV NAME REPORTING UPDATE

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH, Health Officer, Washington State Department of Health, Chris Spitters, MD, Washington State Department of Health, and Maria Courogen, Assessment Unit Manager and

Lead Epidemiologist presented their report found behind tab nine of the Board packet. This report was generated based on the SBOH mandate that DOH come back after a year and provide an overview of the surveillance system and respond to questions.

Dr. Locke asked if DOH has a way of comparing cost of the present system of converting names to code vs. a “simpler” system. Dr. Spitters stated that the data and estimates look at cost of named to code and not marginal costs. That would require a complex analysis due to lack of empirical data. Actual results are close to the small business analysis filed with the original rule.

Joe Finkbonner asked about what steps were being taken to meet CDC standards. Ms. Courogen noted that results might improve with elimination of the backlog. DOH will continue to get word out about reporting to providers and these types of results are not unusual in a young system.

Ms. Corkrum stated she was pleased how well we have met CDC standards.

Ms. Selecky indicated a willingness for the Department to produce additional follow-up reports in collaboration with local partners but she said format and depth and focus might be somewhat different follow-up report. Chair Lake she would like be sure that such follow-up reports include more information on tentative conclusions and indications found in this follow-up report. Dr. Locke suggested that follow-up reports on the HIV reporting system be produced as part a broader evaluation of the overall surveillance system just modified by the Board’s consolidation of Notifiable Conditions rules. It was agreed that such an evaluation might use HIV as one of several sentinel conditions and might be produced in a timeline to be suggested by the DOH.

NW AIDS Foundation submitted written testimony for the record.

PUBLIC FORUMS: COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS – CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Jean Baldwin, Jefferson County Health Department, Carol Hardy MA LM, Jefferson County Health Department and Norma Turner, Citizen from Clallam County presented to the Board the following:

Jefferson County participates in the “Best Beginnings” program for prenatal and newborn care. This is a four county consortium along with the University of Washington and DOH. The results are presented in the handouts. Ms. Hardy asked the Board to support/advocate for the funding of the “Second Steps” program through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Ms. Turner reported on efforts in Clallam County that focused on birth through age eight home visits as a key component. They hired a consultant to investigate if there was a way for collaboration that resulted in a call for home visiting and parent education. The county held a prevention forum and had 600 attendees. When they broke to discussion groups, 80% of attendees called for home visiting services

Dr. Locke asked about number of clients. Jefferson County has 200 births per year – 70% paid for by Medicaid and the Best Beginnings program enrolls about 80% of those births. The program sees about 45 or 50 first time moms per year.

Ms. Ybarra asked Secretary Selecky about the status of the Second Steps funding. Ms. Selecky stated that the program relies on federal Medicaid funding and she has not heard of any current efforts regarding expansion of the program. She stated she would follow up with DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock.

PUBLIC FORUMS: COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS – ACCESS TO CRITICAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Dr. Locke Introduced Dr. Gene Turner, Pediatrician and Founder of Peninsula Pediatric Services (now retired). Dr. Turner presented a summary of his concerns about access in Clallam County:

- Noted increase in enrollment in state subsidized programs (Healthy Options (HO)), CHIP and Basic Health Plan (BHP)

- Increased enrollment in managed care results in limited access to specialists and hospitalizations and he felt programs do not meet social needs of family.
- Noted a reduction in number of primary care providers under HO and BHP – most clinics have a restriction on number of clients accepted under programs. His clinic has over 70% of folks under programs because of the other provider's restrictions.
- Believes lack of consumer education on how to access care is problem leading to over-utilization of services (ER and office visits).
- Biggest access problem is in mental health arena. Primary care physicians being asked to care for complex psychosocial problems. Pediatricians manage patients with complex psychotropic drugs – and other behavioral drugs and often feel inadequately trained.
- Called for fluoridation of water supplies.

Dr. Locke then provided his view of access issues in the Olympic Peninsula area:

- Geographic issues impact access – covers a lot of land – people in four population centers – 3 have hospitals. Also shares boundaries with Indian tribes.
- Personnel issues – recruitment and retention issues. Clallam did originally enjoy the second highest concentration of primary care providers until mid '90s. Now the aging provider population and less successful recruitment have raised concerns.
- Status of Tribal health demonstrates a history of steady improvement. Steady growth in range and availability of services.
- Mental Health: Chronic under-funding has created serious problems.
- Oral Health access very seriously impacts children in county.
- Same rural health issues as the rest of the state.
- Kitsap County Physician Service Receivership caused hardship for low-income Jefferson County residents who had to go out of the county to receive services.

Good news:

- Access crisis has brought about a community response. Active Oral health coalition in both counties.
- Jefferson County has a collaborative effort between the public health district and hospital.
- Clallam County United Way looking at the feasibility of developing a clinic and they are looking at collaborative effort to recruit providers.

OPEN PERIOD TO TAKE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ANY HEALTH ISSUE

Jan Hollingsworth, retired critical care nurse, submitted written testimony that she verbally summarized. She called for elimination of “gag” orders on settlements with hospitals and doctors.

Julia Danskin, Public Health Nurse in Jefferson County, discussed access to health care advocating for not only health department but also low-income people in the community. She requested that access issues be addressed at the family level so coverage is not fragmented. She has worked with families whose incomes are above BHP/HO levels who cannot afford health care. She emphasized that these families need access to affordable insurance.

Maia Penfold testified to her personal experience with quality of care while a patient at Jefferson Memorial Hospital. She stated that nursing staff failed to check her alert bracelet containing allergy information. She was given a medication that would have caused an allergic reaction. She calls for access to adequate safe and appropriate hospital services. She believes there is a general lack of satisfaction in community and believes that the hospital should be required to be accredited.

Jerry Chawes, retired food chemist, called for food services at hospitals to be subject to inspection by local health departments. He noted that hospitals are exempt. He expressed deep concern about food quality for patients and the general public at Jefferson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Locke noted that Jefferson Memorial has entered into a voluntary agreement with the health department agreeing to inspections. Mr. Chawes acknowledged this but is requesting formal action requiring mandatory inspections.

Grace Chawes, retired nurse with 40 years of nursing experience, expressed concern about poor response to consumer complaints at Jefferson Memorial. She cited an example of a complaint to

Harrison Hospital that was handled with in 24 hours. She stated that a complaint to Jefferson Hospital received no response. She called for a special Ombudsman program (similar to long-term care facilities) and for DOH to inspect hospitals every six months.

Pat Teal testified that while a patient in 1992, she had a nurse who did not remember if she had been given her medication due to failure to enter information in Ms. Teal's medical chart. She also stated that she objected to some previous testimony that she believed was "Low-Income" stereotyping, specifically to statements regarding missing appointments, alternative medicine, and drug seeking activity.

Kris Locke testified about the fragility of Rural Health Systems and her fear that the insured population is leaving the county to receive care elsewhere. Providers need to have a mix of patients (low-income and insured) in order to support the delivery system.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Linda Lake, Chair